

November 27, 1963

Mr. J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald

Sir:

On Sunday, November 24, 1963, about 11:00 A.M., I was in the basement of the City Hall, Police Courts Building. Captain O. A. Jones walked by and told me that some detectives from the third floor would be down shortly and for me to remain there and tell them to wait for him in front of the jail office window.

We were assigned to the basement hallway of the jail office by Captain O. A. Jones, evenly divided on each side of the hallway. Our instructions were to keep the hallway clear all the way to the armored car.

R. L. Lowery, B. H. Combest, Jerry Hutchinson, and myself and possibly some more, were assigned to the South side of the hallway directly across from the outside entrance to the jail office. On the other side of the hall were Charles Goolsby, James Watson, W. E. Chambers, W. J. Harrison and W. J. Cutshaw. I am not sure of the order of their stations.

About ten minutes passed when Captain Jones came over with Sergeant Putnam and they both told the people of the press to clear the hallway completely and to move out into the drive North of the hallway and to the East of the ramp drive where the armored car was parked. They then told them not to ask Oswald any questions as he was leaving the building.

About 11:30 A.M. Lieutenant R. E. Swain came out of the door of the jail office followed by Captain Fritz. The lights from the many cameras came on immediately. Following Captain Fritz was J. R. Leavelle, Lee Harvey Oswald and L. C. Graves. Following these was L. D. Montgomery.

About half way out of the hallway the press began to reach at Oswald with microphones asking him to make a statement.

I took one step into the hall anticipating following Oswald, Graves and Leavelle to the armored car. I heard a shot and looked over to see many police officers subduing Jack Ruby. I saw L. C. Graves take a snub-nose pistol from Ruby's hand as he was forced to the floor.

From where I was stationed, just inside the jail office hallway, I could see one police officer and a reserve officer. They were stationed at the windows of the jail office and were checking everyone that came in and out of this entrance. I recall that either one or both had been there since 9:30 A.M., this date, and that on one occasion Melba Espinosa, an employee at the Information Desk, was refused admittance to the basement.

Never during the entire operation did I see anyone enter or leave the basement without being properly identified and in many instances searched. I never did see Ruby until after I heard the shot.

The following is a list of the officers I remember seeing close by:

B. H. Combest
J. H. Hutchinson
W. J. Harrison
Wilbur Cutshaw
James Watson
R. L. Lowery

Charles Goolsby
W. E. Chambers
Captain Frank Martin
Lieutenant W. Wiggins
L. D. Miller
R. C. Wagner

Respectfully submitted,



B. L. Beaty, Detective
Special Service Bureau
Narcotic Section

BLB:mjr